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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE • WASHINGTON, D.C.

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MAY 12 1967

Vol. 3, No. 34 April 29, 1967

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Gen. Westmoreland Praises U.S., RVN Fighting Forces

General William C. Westmoreland, Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, has called American servicemen in that Southeast Asian country "the finest and best equipped fighting force ever deployed against an enemy."

Expressing utmost confidence in U.S. battlefield capability, Gen. Westmoreland predicted bitter fighting ahead in the Vietnam conflict but stated that "with fighting forces like these, a commander cannot help but look forward with confidence as he views the military situation."

Speaking before the Associated Press Managing Editors Luncheon in New York upon his arrival in the U.S., April 24, Gen. Westmoreland said that American soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coast guardsmen:

- Are better educated than before;
- Are better informed;
- Have traditional American ingenuity and initiative;
- Are better physical specimens;
- Have high morale;
- And understand what the war is all about.

Delighted Over MIG Base Bombings

The general said he was delighted over first bombings of MIG airfields in Vietnam but showed concern over cease-fire proposals because the enemy "has used covertly cease-fire periods to reinforce and resupply his units, and to strengthen and realign his political posture."

He said that although the military picture is favorable, "I emphasize the fact that we have no evidence to indicate that the enemy is slowing his invasion from the north, or that he is breaking up his major units and scattering them about, or that he has given up his plans to inflict major defeat upon us."

Gen. Westmoreland had high praise for the Vietnamese fighting forces, stating that "except for the Continental Army of our early years, never before in history has a young military force been subjected to such a challenge. In my book, the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces have conducted themselves with credit."

AIR DROP OBSERVERS—Lt. Gen. Fred M. Dean, USAF (left), Deputy Commander, U.S. Strike Command, and Gen. Theodore J. Conway, USA, Commander, U.S. Strike Command, watch the first major airborne drop from a Military Airlift Command C-141 jet transport. The drop was made during joint service exercise "Clove Hitch III," on Vieques Island, near Puerto Rico.

DOD Comptroller Testifies On Vietnam War Financing

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) Robert N. Anthony told a joint Congressional committee on the economic effect of Vietnam spending that the $19.4 billion expenditure for Southeast Asia this year represents only 2.5 percent of the Grozs National Product.

He compared this against the Korean War impact when DOD expenditures increased from 6.7 percent of the GNP in FY51 to 12.2 percent in FY52.

The comptroller attributed this to the development of better DOD forecasting techniques, principally to project in terms of expenditures rather than Congressional obligational authority and to make fiscal predictions case by case from historical spending patterns.

"An additional important reason why the post-Vietnam adjustment will not be so relatively large is that by keeping a tight rein on aircraft and ammunition procurement, to cite two major examples, we have handled our finances in such a way as to moderate the impact of the military buildup on the economy," he said.

Washington Memos

NEW CLASS II activity, Army's Physical Disability Activity, will be established in Washington, D.C., area by Army under operational control of Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. Organization will bring into one element Army's Physical Review Council and Physical Evaluation Boards established at major Army medical facilities in U.S. New unit's commander will be Maj. Gen. Samuel E. Gee, presently assigned as Director of Plans, Programs and Budgets, Office of Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

VICE PRESIDENT Hubert H. Humphrey will address Naval Academy's 1967 graduating class at commencement exercises on June 7, according to RAdm. Draper L. Kauffman, Academy Superintendent. Graduation ceremony for approximately 900 midshipment will be held in Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium.

CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS Adm. David L. McDonald has left Washington to represent the United States, May 4-8, in seven cities in Australia and one in Tasmania commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea. This 1942 engagement in Northern Australian waters off Port Moresby was an historic first in which neither Japanese nor allied surface ships fired a shot, with the fighting being done by land and carrier based aircraft. The CNO will stop off in Hawaii on his return to meet with Pacific Fleet Commander and is expected back in Washington May 23.

APRIL 23RD HAS been established as Army Reserve birthdate, with concurrence of Army's Chief of Military History. The 60th Congress passed act establishing Medical Reserve Corps, reserve's legal predecessor, on that date in 1908.

ARMY IS CONDUCTING a test program in line with DOD's directive that everyone entering service after June 30 be identified by a Social Security Account Number. Test program is being conducted at Armed Forces Examining and Entrance Stations in Chicago, Philadelphia, Richmond and St. Louis.

TWO AIR FORCE Systems Command general officers have been honored by Arnold Air Society. Lt. Gen. Leighton I. Davis, Commander, Systems Command's National Range Division, was presented society's 1967 John Fitzgerald Kennedy Trophy for "outstanding contributions to aerospace flight," and Brig. Gen. Lee V. Gossick, Commander, System Command's Arnold Engineering Development Center, received Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg Trophy for "outstanding contributions to aerospace development in field of science."

AMONG NAVY'S MOST versatile ships, combat stores ship USS Niagara Falls was commissioned at Long Beach Naval Shipyard, Calif., April 29. Niagara Falls will serve with U.S. Naval Forces operating in Western Pacific. Ship will supply fleet units by modernized highline method and by helicopters.

AIR FORCE Outstanding Unit Award was presented to two air defense units at Sioux City Air Base, Iowa, during ceremonies April 21. Maj. Gen. Thomas K. McGehee, Commander, Air Defense Command's 10th Air Force, Kansas City, presented awards to Headquarters, 30th Air Divison and 4644th Support Squadron. Two units were cited for meritorious service during period July 1, 1964 to June 30, 1966.

AIR FORCE COL. George A. Zahn will take command of Rome Air Development Center, Griffiss AFB, N.Y., on Aug. 1. Col. Zahn, currently serving as Deputy for Communications Systems, Air Force Electronics Systems Division, Hanscom Field, Mass., will succeed Brig. Gen. Allman T. Culbertson, who is scheduled to retire.

SELECTIVE SERVICE DIRECTOR Lt. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey told Senate Armed Services Committee recently that proposed legislation to extend the Draft Law past June 30 expiration date reflects principles which have always guided Congress. Two principles cited were to provide qualified military manpower, when and where it is needed, and to preserve a strong civilian economy at the same time.

DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY has selected Army's STRATCOM telecommunications facility at Davis, Calif., as "Most Outstanding Station" for 1966 in DCA's Western hemispheric operation. Davis facility is a unit of STRATCOM-CONUS and ranks among command's largest and most advanced radio transmitter and receiver relays.

A DOZEN NAVAL Air Transport Wing, Pacific, officers have been awarded Air Force Commendation Medals. All staff department heads, officers were cited for professional service and devotion to duty in connection with command's outstanding record while operating under Air Force's Military Airlift Command. Navy unit at NAS Moffett Field, Calif., will be disestablished June 30.

IN SERIES OF four contracts awarded to Bell Helicopter Co., Ft. Worth, Tex., Army Aviation Material Command has authorized production and delivery of $16.2 million in aircraft components. Largest of contracts at $8.3 million provides for 3,000 rotary wing blades for UH-1 Iroquois helicopter. Also in support of UH-1 program were an $3.6 million contract for 414 main rotor hubs; a $1.26 million contract for 391 rotary wing blades, and a $3 million contract for 792 main blade assemblies.

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Published semi-weekly by Press Division Armed Forces News Bureau, 1117 No. 19th St., Arlington, Va. 22209, a unified activity of the Directorate for Armed Forces Information and Education, OASD(M). This publication contains official information, news and policy, direct from Washington authorized sources. Reproduction of content is authorized. Suggested dateline for materials used is WASHINGTON (AFNB).

Defense Dept. Voices Support Of Women Officer Legislation

Defense Department has given its support to legislation to remove restrictions on the careers of women officers in the Armed Forces.

A DOD witness told the House Armed Services Committee April 20 that the fundamental purpose of the bill is to remove restrictions so women officers would have the same promotion and tenure opportunities on the basis of merit now available to male officers.

The bill (H.R. 5894), similar to one the House passed last year, would strike out such restrictions as limiting the rank of colonel or Navy captain to the heads of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force women components when serving the director's post.

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower Thomas D. Morris said that there have even been three instances where women officers who had held the rank of colonel as director of a woman's component had to drop back to lieutenant colonel when taking a responsible job on his own staff.

DOD emphasized the bill will not offer special promotional opportunities for women but will remove discriminatory and inconsistent distinctions now applying to women.

President Johnson's Armed Forces Day Message

America's rise to world leadership will be remembered down through history as an inspiring example of what men can achieve in the cause of freedom.

Freedom was the goal that sparked our independence —and only the love of freedom has sustained it.

Nowhere is this dedication reflected more vividly than in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Our modern military establishment is the mightiest arsenal of all time. But it would give us neither peace nor security without the devotion to duty, the courage and sacrifice of the men and women who wear our country's uniform.

As Commander-in-Chief, I invite every American to participate in the 1967 observance of Armed Forces Day, which honors those who guard our heritage.

In Vietnam—and around the world—they perpetuate the ideals which made and preserve us as a nation.

Let our thoughts be with them on this day. And let our prayers attend them, always, as they unflinchingly defend our legacy and our lives.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

CHANGE OF COMMAND—Saluting during change of command ceremonies aboard the aircraft carrier USS Wasp, in New York City, are, from left, Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic and Atlantic Fleet and Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic; VAdm. John S. McCain Jr., Vice Chairman, U.S. Delegation, UN Military Staff Committee and Commander, Eastern Sea Frontier, who was relieved; and VAdm. Andrew McB. Jackson Jr., who succeeded Adm. McCain. Adm. McCain will be promoted to four-star rank and become Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, May 1.

Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Testifies on Pilot Requirements

Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Bruce K. Holloway has assured a Senate Armed Services subcommittee there is no current pilot shortage that would degrade Air Force mission or operational activities.

Testifying before the Subcommittee on Preparedness Investigating, Gen. Holloway said, "we are meeting our mission requirements for pilots in support of the increased demands of operations in Southeast Asia . . . our other operational capabilities are satisfactory and will continue to be so."

It was explained that a change in national strategy—from heavy reliance on strategic nuclear forces as an across-the-board deterrent to the more inclusive strategy of flexible response—has increased the demand for pilots in the Air Force.

"We have concluded that we can continue our current tour policy in SEA," the general said, "and operate the remainder of the Air Force at least through June 30, 1968, without significant lessening of mission requirements."

He said the Air Force has expanded its pilot training program to meet current needs, adding that a study is now underway to determine future pilot inventory and the required training base necessary to meet objectives.

SEATO Exercise 'Aurora' Scheduled in Thailand

A combined Southeast Asia Treaty Organization exercise will be held in Thailand from May 15 to 28.

Code-named "Aurora," the exercise will be hosted by Thailand and sponsored by the United States. Other participating nations will be Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Primary objective of the exercise is to train commanders and their staffs in the planning and execution of combined operations. Instead of being conducted in the field, the exercise will be projected by means of a map system from a base headquarters.

Major General Richard G. Stilwell, Chief, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Thailand, will be exercise director. He will be assisted by two deputies, Maj. Gen. Chalard Hiransiri of the Royal Thai Army and Brigadier F. S. Eiloart of the United Kingdom, Commander, Far East Land Forces.

Navy Navigational Gear Undergoing Sea Trials

Underwater navigational gear for quick location of disabled submarines is now undergoing sea trials in waters off St. Croix, Virgin Islands, for possible installation on Navy submersibles of the future.

Two advanced electronic systems for navigating on or near the ocean bottom are being tried out for the deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) slated for 1968 delivery and the Deep Submergence Search Vehicle (DSSV) scheduled in 1970.

One class of equipment uses a transponder interrogator and a network of acoustic beacons. The other employs doppler navigation with doppler sonar, gyrocompass and plotter.

Test equipment is aboard the Aluminaut which started diving April 26 to average depths of 3,000 feet.

This submersible participated in the nuclear device search in Spanish waters.

WELCOME ABOARD — Maj. Gen. Louis B. Robertshaw (left) Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing, welcomes Maj. Paul R. Jones of Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 533 to Chu Lai in Vietnam. Jones was the first A-6A Intruder pilot from VMA-533 to complete the unit's trans-Pacific flight from Cherry Point, N.C.

Maj. Gen. B. D. Foulois, 87, Oldest Military Pilot, Dies at Andrews AFB, Md.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin D. Foulois, 87, America's oldest military pilot, died at the Andrews AFB, Md., hospital, April 25.

On learning of his death, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara said Gen. Foulois "was one of our country's outstanding pioneer airmen. His many contributions have earned him a lasting place in the history and traditions of military aviation."

Gen. Foulois was known throughout the Air Force as the "living link between the age of the Wright Brothers and today's astronaut." He achieved many "firsts" in aviation. On March 2, 1910, Gen. Foulois took his first solo in a Wright Brothers-built canvas, wood and wire aircraft bearing the designation military aircraft No. 1.

He enlisted in the Army engineers at the start of the Spanish-American War in 1898. He rose from the rank of private to Chief of the Air Corps.

FY67 Pilot Inventory Gives Service Breakdowns

A FY67 "Inventory of Pilots" for all four Services lists a total of 80,676 with 6,275 of this number restricted from flying. Total flying jobs came to 46,075.

Statistics released by the Defense Department also included an Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Army break-down into every pilot category, including undergraduate pilot training.

It gave these totals: Air Force 47,776; Navy 15,806; Army 12,646; Marine Corps 4,448.

It also revealed that the Navy and Marine Corps still have some enlisted pilots. The Marine Corps listed 14 enlisted personnel as qualified to fly, while the Navy combined enlisted personnel and warrant officers, listing 10 in this category as qualified to fly and 23 others qualified but excused from flying.

Another sidelight came from Army which listed 5,379 of its 12,646 pilots as flying warrant officers.

Brig. Gen. Hal D. McCown Named To U.S. Command in Thailand

Brigadier General Hal D. McCown, USA, has been named to replace Maj. Gen. Richard G. Stilwell as Chief, JUSMAG, Thailand, and Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Thailand.

Currently serving as Director, Ground Munitions Office, OASD (I&L) in Washington, D.C., Gen. McCown will arrive in Thailand in late June to relieve Gen. Stilwell who has been reassigned as Commanding General, 1st Armored Division, Ft. Hood, Tex.

Gen. McCown has been selected for temporary promotion to major general.

Gen. Stilwell served as Chief of Staff, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, before reporting to his present assignment in August 1965. He is scheduled to report to his new command at Ft. Hood on Aug. 15.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.
Price 5 cents (single copy). Subscription Price: $2.50 per year; $3.25 additional for foreign mailing.

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